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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES**

(covering its work during 1994)

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CHAPTERS II AND III

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* A/49/150.

** This document contains chapters II and III of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/49/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/49/23 (Parts III to VIII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/49/23).

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CHAPTER II

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON DECOLONIZATION

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1429th meeting, on 15 February 1994, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1811), the Special Committee decided, inter alia, to maintain its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance and allocated to it certain specific items for its consideration. The Committee further decided to consider the question of the dissemination of information on decolonization, as appropriate, at its plenary and Subcommittee meetings.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1431st and 1432nd meetings, held on 11 July 1994.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, resolution 48/53 of 10 December 1993 concerning the dissemination of information on decolonization, and resolution 48/52 of the same date, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

4. At the 1431st meeting, the Rapporteur of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in a statement to the Special Committee (A/AC.109/PV.1431), introduced the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1816), which related to consultations with the representatives of the Department of Public Information and of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, and to the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories, as well as Those in South Africa, Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights (23-27 May 1994). In the course of her statement, the Rapporteur made an oral correction to the title of the Week of Solidarity, deleting the phrase "as well as Those in South Africa" therefrom.

5. At the 1432nd meeting, the Special Committee adopted the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.109/L.1816), as orally corrected, and endorsed the conclusions and recommendations contained therein (see para. 7).

B. Decision of the Special Committee

Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights

6. The report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1816), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1432nd meeting, on 11 July 1994 (see para. 5), contained the following statement made by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the occasion of the Week of Solidarity:

Statement made by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and assistance on 26 May 1994 on the Week of Solidarity

"In 1972, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2911 (XXVII), addressed an appeal to the Governments and peoples of the world to observe annually a Week of Solidarity with the Colonial Peoples of Southern Africa. The Week was to start on 25 May, which marked Africa Liberation Day.

"In 1982, the General Assembly expanded the scope of the Week of Solidarity to include its support for the peoples of all colonial Territories, as well as those in South Africa, fighting for freedom, independence and human rights. This was in full accord with the purposes and tenets embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with the principles enshrined in the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

"During the past decades, through the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the decolonization process has accelerated spectacularly. A large number of the former colonies have been able to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and millions of men and women have finally been able to pursue their own destinies.

"All these accomplishments would have been unthinkable had it not been for the historic foresight of the peoples of the United Nations, which had manifested itself in the momentous Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

"The most remarkable achievement of the decolonization process during the past decade has been Namibia's advent to independence through the successful exercise by its people of their right to self-determination in free and fair elections under the control and supervision of the United Nations.

"This year, solidarity and support for the people of South Africa helped bring about the successful outcome of the first democratic elections in South Africa that ended decades of apartheid and opened the way to the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic society in that country. On 10 May, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and other world leaders joined the people of South Africa to celebrate one of the happiest days in Africa's history, the inauguration of Nelson Mandela as the first democratically elected State President of the Republic of South Africa.

"Finally, for almost a quarter of a century, the Week of Solidarity stood as a tribute of the United Nations to the courage and perseverance of millions of men and women fighting for freedom, independence and human rights. The Special Committee notes with great satisfaction that the international community's solidarity with and support for the peoples of all colonial Territories, as well as those in South Africa, who had been struggling for freedom, independence and human rights, contributed to the successful achievement of the goals set forth in General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII).

"On the eve of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, we hail these fundamental achievements of the world Organization in the field of

decolonization and project our vision of the future world, the world striding towards the cherished and noble goal of eradicating colonialism by the year 2000."

C. Other decisions of the Special Committee

7. The report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance (A/AC.109/L.1816), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1432nd meeting, on 11 July 1994 (see para. 5), contained the following conclusions and recommendations:

(1) The Special Committee reiterates the importance of effecting the widest possible dissemination of accurate information on decolonization to further the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960) and to mobilize world public opinion in support of the peoples of colonial Territories in their efforts to achieve self-determination, freedom and independence.

(2) The Special Committee reiterates the great importance it attaches to the work of the Department of Political Affairs. The Committee urges the Department to continue to discharge its mandate, taking into account all the Territories under the consideration of the Committee.

(3) While noting the active participation of the Department of Public Information in the work of the Special Committee and its efforts to produce and disseminate information on decolonization, to monitor the responses received from the United Nations information centres and to report thereon, the Committee requests the Department:

(a) To continue, through all the means at its disposal, its work of publicity in the field of decolonization, basing its activities in this regard on the Charter of the United Nations; the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980; Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General, dated 13 December 1991, 1/ to serve as a plan of action therefor; the items on the agenda of the Special Committee; and all relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and of other organs of the United Nations active in the field of decolonization;

(b) To underline in all its activities that, despite major achievements in the process of decolonization, colonialism has not been completely eradicated and that the activities of the United Nations in this field should be given high priority until all the goals of the Declaration have been achieved;

(c) To continue to disseminate, particularly through parliamentary bodies, non-governmental organizations, mass media and universities, resolutions and decisions of the United Nations on decolonization, including those adopted by the Special Committee, as well as other basic materials concerning decolonization, and to distribute them, especially through United Nations information centres, in local languages when

appropriate, in particular in those regions where there are still Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in countries that are administering Powers;

(d) To adopt measures aimed at providing full coverage of all activities of relevant United Nations bodies in the field of decolonization in press releases in both English and French;

(e) To utilize materials pertaining to the participation of specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the decolonization process, and to distribute those materials, as appropriate, through the United Nations information centres.

(4) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information to provide it with feedback reports from the United Nations information centres regarding their dissemination of information on decolonization.

(5) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information, in cooperation with the Department of Political Affairs, to continue with its speaking engagements at university campuses on the subject of decolonization and to inform the Subcommittee on the experience and the results achieved.

(6) The Special Committee requests the Department of Public Information and the Department of Political Affairs to continue to take into consideration the important role being played by non-governmental organizations in the decolonization process and in the dissemination of information on the situation in all the remaining colonial Territories under consideration by the Committee.

8. The Special Committee also took decisions during the year relating to publicity in connection with other items on its agenda as follows:

(a) In a resolution concerning foreign economic activities in colonial countries, adopted at its 1439th meeting, on 15 July 1994 (see A/AC.109/2007 and A/49/23 (Part III), chap. IV), the Special Committee, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue, through all means at his disposal, to inform world public opinion of those activities of foreign economic and other interests which impede the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The Special Committee also appealed to mass media, trade unions and non-governmental organizations, as well as individuals, to continue their efforts for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

(b) In a decision on military activities in colonial Territories, adopted at its 1439th meeting, on 15 July 1994 (see A/AC.109/2008 and A/49/23 (Part III), chap. V), the Special Committee requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform world public opinion of those military activities and arrangements in colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories which constitute an obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Notes

1/ See A/46/634/Rev.1.

CHAPTER III

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

A. Consideration by the Special Committee

1. At its 1429th meeting, on 15 February 1994, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1811), the Special Committee decided to take up the question of sending visiting missions to Territories as appropriate. The Committee further decided that the item should be considered at its plenary meetings and, as appropriate, by its Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, in connection with its examination of specific Territories.

2. The Special Committee considered the question at its 1429th to 1431st, and 1434th meetings, between 15 February and 12 July 1994.

3. In its consideration of the question, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions including, in particular, those provisions relating to the question contained in resolution 48/52 of 10 December 1993 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and resolution 48/51 and Assembly decision 48/424 of the same date relating to specific Territories. The Committee also considered Assembly resolution 45/33 of 20 November 1990 relating to the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration.

4. During its consideration of the question, the Special Committee had before it the report of the Chairman (A/AC.109/L.1812) on his consultations with representatives of the administering Powers, undertaken in accordance with paragraph 4 of the resolution adopted by the Committee at its 1417th meeting, on 12 July 1993. 1/ In his report, the Chairman stated, inter alia, that he had appealed to the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations for the sending of such missions. It had been the understanding of the Special Committee, from the exchange of views that took place at its regional seminars held in 1990, 1992 and 1993, 2/ that some territorial Governments had expressed their willingness to receive United Nations visiting missions.

5. The Chairman said that he had informed his interlocutors that the Special Committee continued to attach the utmost importance to the cooperation of the administering Powers. Their full cooperation was essential for the successful implementation of the Plan of Action approved by the General Assembly for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. He had taken that opportunity to express his appreciation to the administering Powers concerned for their cooperation in facilitating the participation of a number of representatives from Non-Self-Governing Territories in the two seminars that the Committee had organized within the context of that International Decade.

6. The Chairman also noted with satisfaction that in response to an invitation by the Government of New Zealand, which had been fully supported by the people of Tokelau (A/AC.109/1162), and in accordance with a decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 1417th meeting, on 12 July 1993, the Special Committee would be dispatching a fourth United Nations visiting mission to the Territory at the end of July 1994.

7. As in previous years, the administering Powers consulted had reiterated their willingness to continue to provide all necessary information on the Territories under their administration in fulfilment of their obligation under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations.

8. The representative of one administering Power stated that his Government's record on decolonization had been good and that its position with regard to the dispatch of visiting missions to the Territories under its administration had not changed. Those territorial Governments willing to receive visiting missions, however, should first consult with the administering Power concerned. With regard to the concept of decolonization, the representative said that the Territories under his Government's administration had democratically elected Governments and it was up to them to decide their future status. So far, none of those Territories had taken any action with regard to their future status.

9. The representatives of two administering Powers stated that they remained open to any suggestions by local Governments in the Territories concerned regarding their readiness to receive United Nations visiting missions. The representatives made reference to their respective communications 3/ informing the United Nations that they would stop participating in the work of the Special Committee and indicated that they did not foresee a change of policy in that regard. However, they reiterated the commitment of their Governments to fulfil their obligations concerning transmission of information under Article 73 e of the Charter.

10. The representative of New Zealand reiterated the readiness of his Government to continue, in accordance with established practice and procedure, to provide the Committee with all relevant information on Tokelau and to participate in the related work of the Special Committee. His Government looked forward to the forthcoming dispatch of a visiting mission to the Territory. The representative expressed the hope that sufficient progress would be made on the Constitution of Tokelau that it would be possible for the people of the Territory to decide on their future status by the year 2000.

11. With regard to the invitation extended to the Special Committee by the Government of New Zealand to send a visiting mission to Tokelau (see para. 6), the Chairman informed the Committee at its 1429th meeting, on 15 February, that he would hold consultations with the delegation of New Zealand on the modalities of the visiting mission and report thereon to the Committee at a later date (A/AC.109/PV.1429).

12. At the 1430th meeting, on 12 April, the Chairman made a statement with respect to the visiting mission (A/AC.109/PV.1430).

13. At the 1431st meeting, on 11 July, the Acting Chairman informed the Special Committee that the United Nations Visiting Mission to Tokelau would be composed of the delegations of Chile, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and Tunisia (Chairman of the Mission) and that the Mission would visit the Territory from 19 July to 10 August 1994 (A/AC.109/PV.1431).

14. At the 1434th meeting, on 12 July, the Acting Chairman drew attention to a report (A/AC.109/L.1812) as well as a draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1817) on the question.

15. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/AC.109/L.1817) without objection (see para. 19).

16. On 21 July, the text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2004) was transmitted to the representatives of the administering Powers concerned for the attention of their respective Governments.

17. In addition to the consideration of this item at the plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as described below, the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance in considering the specific Territories referred to it, took into account the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolutions and decisions mentioned in paragraph 3, as well as previous decisions of the Committee relating to the question.

18. By approving the relevant reports of that Subcommittee, the Special Committee endorsed a number of conclusions and recommendations concerning the sending of visiting missions to Territories, as reflected in chapter IX of the present report (A/49/23 (Part VI)), relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, the Turks and Caicos Islands, the United States Virgin Islands and St. Helena, and in chapter X relating to Tokelau (A/49/23 (Part VII)).

B. Decision of the Special Committee

19. The text of the resolution (A/AC.109/2004), adopted by the Special Committee at its 1434th meeting, on 12 July 1994, to which reference is made in paragraph 15 is reproduced below:

> The Special Committee,
>
> Having considered the question of sending visiting missions to Territories,
>
> Having examined the report of the Chairman on the question, 4/
>
> Recalling the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee requesting the administering Powers to cooperate fully with the United Nations by receiving visiting missions in the Territories under their administration,
>
> Mindful that United Nations visiting missions provide an effective means of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status,
>
> Conscious that United Nations visiting missions enhance the capacity of the United Nations to assist the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories in attaining the objectives set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and in other relevant resolutions of the Assembly,
>
> Taking note with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, 5/ a visiting mission will be dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994,
>
> Noting with regret that some administering Powers do not participate in the work of the Special Committee,

1. Stresses the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to facilitate the full, speedy and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples with respect to those Territories;

2. Calls upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration;

3. Continues to call upon those administering Powers that are not participating in the work of the Special Committee to reconsider their decisions and take an active part in the work of the Committee;

4. Requests its Chairman to continue consultations with the administering Powers concerned on the implementation of paragraph 2 of the present resolution and to report thereon to the Special Committee as appropriate.

Notes

1/ See A/48/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 17. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/48/23).

2/ Regional seminars held in Vanuatu (A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1) and Barbados (A/AC.109/1043) in 1990; in Grenada (A/AC.109/1114) in 1992; and in Papua New Guinea (A/AC.109/1159) in 1993. The first two were held in observance of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples; the last two were held within the context of the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77, and A/47/86.

4/ A/AC.109/L.1812.

5/ A/AC.109/1162.